

## FARMER'S DEPARTMENT.

### Practical Science for Women.

It is a delightful thought that our farmers are soon to have their labor made doubly interesting by the light which Science will shed upon them, through the medium of the Agricultural College. But the thought has occurred to me—Why may not the farmer's wife and her sex generally share in the treasures to be opened? There surely can be no valid reason why our sex should be doomed, in the future, as they have been in the past, to what some of the most interesting processes in nature—often with the deepest anxiety in regard to the result, without once comprehending them, or being able to tell how the effect is obtained. Yet this is the case very often in cooking—in butter, cheese, soap and bread making, with many other things equally common.

To illustrate, take one of the most common of the housewife's occupations. As she lifts the foaming dish of "emptyings," in her semi-weekly preparation of the staff of life, how often do such inquiries as the following arise in her mind. What play of chemical affinities has taken place in the inert mass I placed by the fire this morning, to produce all this ferment? What gas has been liberated to cause the pungent smell, and why does it become offensive by long standing? If sulfito used, what agency has it in the matter; or would it do just as well without it; some add milk but they cannot tell why. Which of its component parts contributes to produce the effect, or is that also useless? What beneficial change does boiling the water make in it? There is a common opinion that frequent stirring is advantageous, while others think it injurious, and some that it makes no difference. Which is right?—And why do I sometimes fail of having them rise?

These and many other questions can be asked but not one in a hundred can answer them. Would it not more than double woman's interest in her monotonous rounds of duties, if she could trace the beautiful law of natural philosophy in their operations under her hand?

The occupation of the housekeeper is not now an intellectual one, and as she is, usually, quite closely confined to it, it is not surprising that a thoroughly intellectual wife and mother is rare. But if women were taught to understand the scientific principles involved in their daily labor, they would be able in that to find an exercise for their reasoning powers, and one that could afford them the keenest pleasure.

Besides the enjoyment it would give, they would be able to perform their duties better, and much injury might be saved to the life and health of those under their care.

They are daily handling powerful acids and alkalies—frequently poisons—and often without a thought of the injury which their careless combination with other substances might produce. And who does not know that food is often cooked in such a way as to render digestion very difficult, if not absolutely impossible. Would not the time be well spent which would give to the wife and mother a sufficient knowledge of chemistry and physiology to enable her to attend to her duties understandingly, and in the best manner? Another reason for its requirement is, that this knowledge would often spare him the contempt of the more intelligent for her superstitious way of accounting for the phenomena which come under her observation. A lady of more than common intelligence on most subjects, once said, in apology to a friend, that she "could not talk while mixing her emptings for fear they might not rise, she had been having bad luck lately."

But it will be asked, how is this to be done? I will briefly indicate several ways in which I think it could be done.

Let our female Colleges and Seminaries give their pupils a thorough knowledge of the practical sciences and teach them how to apply them to their everyday occupations. In England, fifty years ago, the boarding school education of a young lady was incomplete until she had made, and richly embroidered, a set of baby's clothes! With all due deference to our grandmother's judgement, I must think that the preparation for future housekeeping here proposed is much more intellectual, if not more necessary.—*Correspondent of the Michigan Farmer.*

### Keeping Potatoes in Winter.

Potatoes spoil in winter, if buried, from three causes. First and greatest, want of ventilation. Secondly, and nearly allied, dampness. Thirdly, and more rarely, freezing. Farmers find most of their potatoes spoiled at the top of the heap; where they suppose they became frozen; but this is not the usual cause; the damp, foul, steamy air ascended there, and could not escape, and thus spoiled them. A hole made at the top, with a crowbar, and closed with a wisp of straw, would have allowed egress to the confined air, and saved the potatoes.

The best way to store potatoes out doors, is to make large heaps, say 50 or 60 bushels; see that they are dry and clean, by digging before wet weather comes on; cover them all over with one foot of packed straw, and three inches of earth. The straw will prevent dampness, and the few inches of earth will favor ventilation.

Or all classes, the great first cause  
Springs from neglect of Nature.

### SUFFER NOT.

WHEN ACURE IS GUARANTEED IN ALL STAGES  
OF SECRET DISEASES,

*Sell-Ape's* *Nervous Distress, Nervous, Grief, Grav-  
elous, Disease of the Kidneys and Bladder, Jerry-  
cough, Diseases of the Lungs, Throat, Nose and Eyes,  
Colds, Diseases of the Bowels, Limbs, Circulation, Joints,  
Cysts upon the Rectum, Lungs, Heart, Liver, and  
Kidneys, and all diseases arising  
from a derangement of the sexual organs.*

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